
CAPITOL CONNECTION

A Weekly Update of News and Views
For Opinion Shapers and Policy Makers

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



March 20, 2009

Democrats' Budget Raises Taxes on Small Businesses

Not only does the Democrats' Fiscal Year 2010 budget propose the largest tax increase in American history, it also includes taxes directly aimed at small businesses. The budget proposal will increase taxes on all taxpayers that earn more than \$250,000. Because most small businesses do not pay corporate income taxes, and instead pay taxes on small business income on their individual returns, small businesses will be particularly hard hit by this \$637 billion tax increase. In fact, independent research has found that half of all impacted taxpayers own small businesses, which create seven out of every ten jobs in our nation. In addition, the budget proposal resurrects the death tax, which punishes families for building up savings to pass on to their children and places the vast majority of the burden on small businesses. Congressman Miller adamantly opposes these new taxes because they will stifle job creation and economic growth in the midst of an economic recession. Rather, he believes that small businesses should have greater access to their own capital so that jobs can be preserved, protected, and created.

Congressman Miller Cosponsors Legislation to Expand SCAAP

This week, Congressman Miller cosponsored legislation to require the federal government to more fully reimburse states for the cost of detaining illegal aliens charged with crimes. The bill expands the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) to compensate states not only for incarcerating illegals who have been convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors, but also for the costs incurred for those charged with an offense. According to one study, during Fiscal Year 2006 the cost of illegal immigration to California's border counties was over \$82 million for law enforcement expenses alone. During that same time period, the federal government reimbursed those same counties only \$2.4 million for the cost of jailing illegal aliens. In light of California's budget crisis, Congressman Miller believes firmly that the federal government should cover the costs associated with apprehending and detaining illegal immigrants and will continue to work with his colleagues to see that our nation's immigration laws are fully enforced.

Congressman Miller Cosponsors Home Front to Heroes Postal Benefits Act

Congressman Miller has proudly cosponsored bipartisan legislation to allow military families to more easily communicate with their loved ones while they are deployed. Currently, men and women in uniform serving overseas may send mail for free to their family in the United States. However, the families of these servicemembers may not send mail free of charge to their loved ones serving in these same combat zones. To remedy this, the Home Front to Heroes Postal Benefits Act will give members of the Armed Forces serving in combat operations a free monthly postal benefit they can transfer to their loved ones, who can then send a letter or package at no cost. Members of the Armed Forces could also choose to donate their vouchers to charitable organizations, such as those that send care packages to soldiers. By defending our country both at home and abroad, our nation's military continually secure our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Congressman Miller is grateful to these brave men and women and will continue to work with his colleagues to see that this important legislation is passed.

Los Angeles Passport Agency Sponsors "Passport Day in the USA"

On June 1, 2009, travel requirements will change. As of this date, U.S. citizens will be required to present a passport book, passport card, or other travel documents approved by the U.S. government to enter the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda at land borders and sea ports of entry. If you would like to learn more about the new travel requirements or need to apply for your passport, join the Los Angeles Passport Agency on "Passport Day in the USA" on Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Passport Agency is located in the Federal Building at 11000 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. # 1000, Los Angeles, CA 90024. Please call the National Passport Information Center at 1-877-487-2778, or refer to www.travel.state.gov, for additional information on passports and safety tips while traveling abroad. For issues concerning the Department of State or the Passport Agency, please contact Congressman Miller's Brea office at (714) 257-1142.